

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2009, in which claims 1-22 were pending. Claims 18-20 were rejected as non-statutory subject matter, claims 1-4 and 15-18 were rejected as anticipated by Zeng et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,236,757, hereafter "Zeng") and claim 5 was rejected as obvious over Zeng. Claims 6-14 and 19-22 were allowed. With this amendment, claim 16 is amended to address a translational error, and claims 18-20 are amended to recite a statutory method. All of claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20, which defined a signal, were rejected as non-statutory subject matter. Claim 18 is amended to recite a method comprising acts of generating and transmitting the signal, rendering it statutory subject matter. Claims 19 and 20 are correspondingly adapted into method claims. With claims 18-20 now reciting statutory method acts, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 and 15-18 were rejected over Zeng. Zeng describes an adaptive image coding method which consists of dividing the input image into segments and in assigning each segment to a wavelet transform filter selected from a bank of filters which are adapted for different types of image content, e.g., sharp edges, slowly varying contours. Such a segment can be rectangular or can correspond to a subregion of the image which can be of any shape. More precisely, Zeng suggests the selection of a filter adapted for the coding of an image segment according to an entropy criterion (column 4, lines 38-50). In Zeng, the selected wavelet transform filter is directly applied to the pixels of the segment which is to be encoded. (See, for instance, column 6, lines 5-11 and 28-34 and Table 1).

In the invention defined in claims 1 and 15-18, the encoding method not only implements at least two types of wavelets applied selectively to distinct zones of said image, but also involves associating a hierarchical mesh with the image, with the wavelet-encoding being implemented on the hierarchical mesh. With Zeng applying its wavelets directly to the pixels of the image, Zeng does not disclose or suggest that the images to be coded are to be associated with a hierarchical mesh as required by claims 1 and 15-18. Accordingly, Zeng is not relevant to the invention defined in claims 1 and 15-18, and claims 1 and 15-18 should be allowed. Claims 2-5 are non-obvious and patentable for the same reasons, among others.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 6-14 and

20-22, as well as for the absence of rejection of claims 19 and 20 over the prior art. These claims remain patentable for their own limitations as well as due to the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend, and should be allowed.

Claim 16 is amended to address a translational error, and should be directed at a “device for encoding” rather than a --device for decoding--. Support for the amendment can be found in the application at page 8, lines 10-13, and no new matter is added.

The application containing pending claims 1-22 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2998. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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